

REMARKS

In order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, Claim 1 has been amended to state that a tensile of the polarizing film is set in one direction selected from among a direction of a polarizing axis of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the polarizing axis to be less than the tension of the polarizing film in the other direction perpendicular to the one direction. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron in view of Tasaka et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection and urge reconsideration in light of the following comments.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a method of molding a polarizing film. The method comprises the steps of applying a colored polarizing film to a molding face of a mold, allowing the polarizing film to be sucked onto the molding face by vacuum suction to mold a colored concave and convex polarizing film, setting a tensile of the polarizing film in one direction selected from among a direction of a polarizing axis of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the polarizing axis to be less than a tension of the polarizing film in the other direction perpendicular to the one direction, stretching the polarizing film at a position on a line of the diameter of the mold in parallel with the one direction less than stretching at other positions to thereby allow the color of the polarizing film at the position where the stretching of the polarizing film is less to be deeper and form a reference mark in a polarizing direction.

The instant invention allows the formation of a reference mark on a polarizing film in the process of molding the polarizing film and can be used for large item small scale production of the polarizing film. Through the setting of the

tensile of the polarizing film in one direction selected from among a direction of the polarizing axis of the polarizing film in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the polarizing axis to be less than the tension of the polarizing film in the other direction perpendicular to the one direction, the polarizing film can be stretched at a position on a line of the diameter of the mold in parallel with the one direction less than in other positions to allow the color of the polarizing film at the position where the stretching of the polarized film is less to be deeper and form a reference mark in a polarizing direction. It is respectfully submitted that the newly cited prior art by the Examiner does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

The Cameron reference discloses a method of manufacturing a print pad having a surface texture for printing on a highly polished surface such as a contact lens or a contact lens mold in which the print pad for printing on hard surfaces is made by first forming a mold having a textured surface and then forming the print pad in the mold. The textured surface of the mold is made by first manufacturing a sheet of plastic having a surface with the desired texture and then using a thermal forming process to shape the plastic into the mold. This reference has been cited by the Examiner as disclosing that it is known to carry out a method for molding a film comprising the steps of applying a colored film to a molding face of a mold, allowing the film to be sucked onto the molding face by vacuum suction to mold a colored concave and convex film and stretching the film at a position on a line of the diameter of the mold in parallel with a certain direction less than stretching at other positions to thereby allow the color of the film at the position where the stretching of the film is less to be deeper and form a reference mark in a direction.

However, as admitted by the Examiner, the Cameron reference has no disclosure with respect to the molding of a polarizing film and therefore does not suggest anything would

be gained through the application of a tensile difference to the polarizing axis of a polarizing film in the direction crossing the polarizing axis of the polarizing film. The present invention uses a polarized film as a starting material. Nothing in Cameron suggests the use of a polarized film as a starting material or forming a reference mark in any direction on the film let alone a polarizing direction. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that this reference is not even close to the presently claimed invention and the secondary reference cited by the Examiner must provide the motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify this reference in a manner that would yield the presently claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that the secondary reference contains no such disclosure.

The Tasaka et al reference discloses a method of manufacturing a cellulose ester film in which a film is polarized by applying a tensile to the strength in a given direction. This reference discloses that a tensile difference is applied between the traveling direction of the film in a direction perpendicular to the traveling direction to give a polarization to the film thereby manufacturing the polarizing film. That is, in this reference, the application of the tensile difference is used to add polarization to the film and is not applied after the polarizing film has been manufactured to mold it in a specific shape. Therefore, this reference adds nothing to the previously discussed reference and the two references in combination do not even present a showing of prima facie obviousness under 35 USC 103(a).

Reconsideration of the present application and the passing of it to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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